



City of Arts & Innovation

PRESS RELEASE

Police Department
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Thursday, May 14, 2015

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Kidnapping Suspect Taken into Custody

Riverside, CA – On Tuesday, May 12, 2015, a man later identified as Ignatius “Kermit” Ward, ran from Riverside Police Officers after swallowing narcotics. Ward, armed with a knife, broke into a woman’s home in the area of Chicago and 7th street. After entering the home, Ward held the female victim on the ground and threatened her with physical harm if she alerted the police. Simultaneously, officers searched with a police K-9 just outside of the victim’s residence. Ward held the woman hostage inside her home for several hours. Eventually, Ward stole clothing from the victim and forced her to drive him to a liquor store in the area. The next day, Riverside Police METRO Officers Brett Stennett and John Allison took over this case and developed several leads regarding Ward’s location.

On Thursday, May 14, 2015, the Riverside Police METRO Team set up surveillance in the area of Olivewood and Panorama in an attempt to locate Ward. METRO officers in an undercover and uniformed capacity were part of the operation. Officer Stennett said, “Ward has a violent history including fighting with the police so the METRO Team



wanted to get as close as possible and overwhelm him to avoid a violent confrontation." An undercover METRO officer observed Ward sleeping inside a vehicle and notified the arrest team. The METRO officers moved in quickly and took Ward into custody without incident. Ward was later booked into the Robert Presley Detention Center for Home Invasion Robbery, Kidnapping and False Imprisonment.

